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(54) Abstract Title
E-mail transmission mechanism for a multi-site PABX call logging system

(57) A transmission mechanism for a multi site Private Automatic Branch Exchange (P.A.B.X) call logging system which uses the Internet S.M.T.P. protocol to share C.I.L. records with the central site or other sites in the form of Email messages. A processing unit is used to transmit C.I.L. records from the remote site and to receive these records at a central site using Email.

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EMAIL TRANSMISSION MECHANISM FOR A MULTI SITE P.A.B.X CALL LOGGING SYSTEM

This invention relates to a transmission mechanism for a multi site Private Automatic Branch Exchange (P.A.B.X) call logging system.

Private Automatic Branch Exchanges are telephone exchanges used within companies to provide inter and intra office communications.

Each call made is reported from the Call Information Logging (C.I.L.) port of the P.A.B.X. These C.I.L. records are used for call accounting and system management purposes.

There is often a need to present the information centrally which must be undertaken at present be calling each site up to gather the C.I.L. records. These calls are often at long distance call rates.

According to the present invention there is provided a processing unit used to transmit C.I.L. records from the remote site and to receive these records at a central site using Email.

A specific embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of an example.

The unit formats and sends C.I.L. records in such a way as to be accepted as an Internet Electronic Mail (Email) message, conforming to the simple mail transport protocol (S.M.T.P.) of the Internet.

The unit presents itself to the Internet as an S.M.T.P. client normally used to send Emails from site to site, and so takes advantage of local call rates for all connections. The call is established to the Internet provider who is responsible for the transmission of messages between parties.

A message is sent with the remote address being the central or other call logging system sites. The call logging data is enclosed within the body of the S.M.T.P. message.

The central logging system may then retrieve the records at local call rate by connecting to the Post Office Protocol 3 (P.O.P. 3) server provided by the Internet provider and requesting messages pertaining to it.

The records are then removed from the body of the message and processed in the usual way for a call logging system.

CLAIMS

1.   A transmission mechanism for a multi site Private Automatic Branch Exchange (P.A.B.X) call logging system which uses the Internet S.M.T.P. protocol to share C.I.L records with the central site or other sites in the form of Email messages

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No:	GB 9906531.0	**Examiner:**	Richard Howe
Claims searched:	1	**Date of search:**	14 May 1999

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

    UK Cl (Ed.Q): H4K (KFM, KEC, KED, KEX)

    Int Cl (Ed.6): H04Q (3/00, 3/62) ; H04M (3/36, 15/34)

Other: Online : wpi; epodoc; japio

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	GB 2 294 566 A (Mitel Corporation) - see abstract and figure 1	